

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 051323Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7724

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, NL

SUBJECT: GERMAN SOCIALISTS VISIT THE HAGUE

REF: 75 THE HAGUE 5023

1. LAST WEEKEND SPD DELEGATION LED BY FORMER CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT VISITED THE NETHERLANDS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DUTCH SOCIALIST PARTY (PVDA). THE BRANDT GROUP, 15 STRONG, ALSO INCLUDED MFA STATE SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI, MOD STATE SECRETARY SCHMIDT AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STATE SECRETARY ALVIN BRUECK. ON THE DUTCH SIDE PARTY CHAIRMAN MRS. VAN DEN HEUVEL, PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL, FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER PRONK TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. FOR THE DUTCH SOCIALISTS, THE VISIT IS ONE OF A SCHEDULED SERIES OF CONTACTS WITH SISTER PARTIES IN EUROPE. FRENCH AND SWEDISH SOCIALISTS ARE EXPECTED IN THE NETHERLANDS LATER THIS SPRING. FOR THE GERMANS, THE VISIT WAS ENTIRELY A PARTY AFFAIR. THE GERMAN EMBASSY, SOMEWHAT TO THE DISMAY OF AMBASSADOR OBERMAYER, WAS NOT INVOLVED OTHER THAN IN PROVIDING DAILY COPIES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GERMAN PRESS TO THE DELEGATION'S HOTEL IN AMSTERDAM.

3. THE VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN MRS. VAN DEN HEUVEL AND BRANDT. THESE HAD COOLED LAST YEAR AFTER MRS. VAN DEN HEUVEL, UPON RETURNING FROM A TRIP TO EAST GERMANY, SAID THE BERLIN WALL WAS JUSTIFIED (THE HAGUE 5023). REPORTEDLY, BRANDT ISSUED HER AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE FRG FOR FURTHER TALKS WHICH SHE ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE.

4. ON SUBSTANCE, TOO, THE VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL. BRANDT TOLD THE PRESS AFTERWARDS THAT BOTH PARTIES WERE BASICALLY AGREED ON MAJOR ISSUES, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFERENCES ON DEVELOPMENT AID. HERE, BRANDT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE DUTCH WERE PREPARED TO MAKE GREATER SACRIFICES AND HE EXPRESSED REGRET THIS WAS NOT THE CASE IN THE FRG. BRANDT CALLED THE DISCUSSIONS FRANK, COMRADELY AND CONSTRUCTIVE. MRS. VAN DEN HEUVEL SAID THEY WERE VERY FRIENDLY BUT VERY FRANK. EVIDENTLY THE GERMANS WERE SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE THAN THE DUTCH ABOUT THE TINDEMANS REPORT. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DUTCH DELEGATION NOTED THE IMPORTANCE THE GERMANS ATTACHED TO FREE-MARKET PRINCIPLES, SUGGESTING A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT EMPHASIS ON THE PART OF THE DUTCH SOCIALISTS. ACCORDING TO MRS. VAN DEN HEUVEL, BOTH PARTIES AGREED THAT SPAIN COULD NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE EEC UNTIL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS WERE FULLY RESTORED. ON EUROPEAN SECURITY ISSUES, THERE WERE ALSO PRESS REPORTS ABOUT DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS--WITH THE GERMANS PRESUMABLY IMPRESSING ON THEIR DUTCH COLLEAGUES THE NEED FOR A STRONG WESTERN DEFENSE POSTURE. A LARGE MEASURE OF UNANIMITY SEEMS TO HAVE COME OUT OF DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNDESIRABILITY OF EUROPEAN SUMMITS OR DIRECTORATES.

5. THE MEETING HAS ATTRACTED A FAIR AMOUNT OF DUTCH PRESS COMMENT. THE LEADING INDEPENDENT LIBERAL DAILY "NRC HANDELSBLAD" EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS MIGHT DISGUISE FAIRLY IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. THE PAPER WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE DUTCH PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN MOSTLY ON THE DEFENSIVE, COMMENTING THAT FOR THEM THIS CONFRONTATION "WITH REALITY" NO DOUBT HAD WIDENED THEIR HORIZONS. "NRC HANDELSBLAD" THOUGHT THAT THE GERMANS HAD RAISED THE LEVEL OF REALISM AMONG THE DUTCH SOCIALISTS AND MIGHT HAVE CONVINCED THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP OF THE NECESSITY TO OFFER RESISTANCE TO "IDEALISTIC-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROMANTIC VIEWS STILL RAMPANT WITHIN THIS PARTY." SOCIALIST "HET PAROOL" THOUGHT THE MEETING HAD BEEN USEFUL IN CEMENTING RELATIONS NOT ONLY BETWEEN THE PARTIES BUT ALSO THE TWO COUNTRIES AND DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT BOTH DUTCH AND GERMAN SOCIALISTS REJECTED ANY FORM OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS. INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE "ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD" RECALLED PVDA CRITICISM OF NATO AT ITS PARTY CONGRESS LAST YEAR, WHICH IT SAID HAD GIVEN RISE TO ALARM IN THE FRG. IT ALSO MADE MENTION OF THE PROBLEM OF

POLLUTION OF THE RHINE WHICH REMAINS A BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN  
BOTH COUNTRIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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